



# Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

## An Overview of Washington State Initiatives

*Board of Health  
May 9, 2001  
Lincoln High School – Tacoma*



## Mission

The mission of GEAR UP is to encourage more  
low-income and disadvantaged students  
to have high expectations, stay in  
school and study hard,  
and go to college.



## Federal Provisions

- Provides Department of Education matching grants to local partnerships and state governments
- Links schools, colleges and universities, communities, private sector, and government agencies
- Promotes academic readiness for higher education

3



## Activities

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| ■ Mentoring                     | ■ K-12 professional development                       |
| ■ Tutoring                      | ■ K-12 curriculum enhancements                        |
| ■ Academic advising             | ■ Career planning                                     |
| ■ Field trips                   | ■ Information about college options and financial aid |
| ■ Promoting rigorous coursework |   |
| ■ Parent activities             |   |

4



## Partnership Grants

- Link higher education institutions, school districts, community and statewide organizations, municipalities, businesses, and others
- Serve cohorts of students
  - Targets entire grade-level; at least 50 percent eligible for free/reduced school meals
  - Starts not later than 7th grade; follows through high school graduation
  - Promotes curriculum and structural change through school-based programming

5



## Washington Local Partnerships



6



## State Grants

- Administer early intervention programs directly to students
- Foster systemic change through curriculum enhancements, teacher development, and support to local partnerships
- Award scholarships to participating students
- May target entire cohorts or individual needy student

7



## Washington State Project

- Spearheaded by Governor Gary Locke
- Administered by HECB, UW College of Arts and Sciences, and dozens of state and local partners

WSU Cooperative Extension ✶ Taholah School District ✶ Radical Change Group  
Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma ✶ Washington MESA ✶ Seattle Public Schools  
Northwest Learning and Achievement Group ✶ Hoquiam Parks and Recreation  
Washington Association of Independent Colleges and Universities ✶ ACT, Inc.  
Yakima Public Schools ✶ Tacoma Housing Authority ✶ Wapato Community Center  
Dozens of Higher Education Institutions

8



## Washington Project Components

- *Scholars Project* — comprehensive early intervention to disadvantaged students
- *Communications Project* — networks and planning publications to help students and parents
- *Project RED* — curriculum enhancements, professional development, outreach activities, and campus experiences to support state and local GEAR UP projects

9



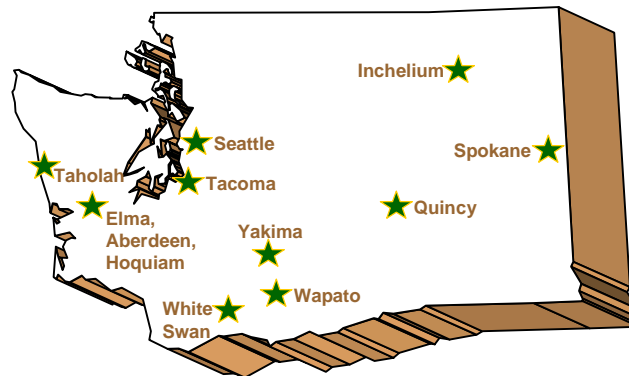
## Scholars Project

- Administered by HECB
- Serves students and families in 12 communities
- Targets individual students who are low-income, Title I, or otherwise at-risk of dropping out
- Provides community-based, after school programming

10



## Scholars Projects



11



## Scholars Project Strategies

- Up to 150 at-risk 7th - 12th graders in each Scholars Project community; 1200 statewide
- Comprehensive, year-round activities
  - SWS academic support
  - Academic and career planning
  - Field trips to college campuses
  - Community service projects
  - Mentor relationships
  - Financial aid and admission information
  - FAFSA and application assistance
  - 150 hours per year

12



## Scholars Project Strategies

### ■ Parent activities

- Academic and financial planning workshops
- Parent advocacy training
- 40 hours per year

### ■ Scholarships

- Up to 4 years
- Equivalent to maximum Pell Grant

### ■ Ambassadors

- High school outreach workers to at-risk peers

13



## Further Information

### ■ Department of Education GEAR UP Page

[www.ed.gov/gearup](http://www.ed.gov/gearup)

### ■ Higher Education Coordinating Board

[www.hecb.wa.gov](http://www.hecb.wa.gov)

### ■ University of Washington

<http://gearup.washington.edu>

14



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